ABSTRACT

This invention provides methods for managing the overwriting of existing stored video data with new incoming video data by prioritizing all video categories, and establishing rules for each level of priority. The methods are based upon the classification or prioritization of the each video segment into discrete categories. Rules are established for each particular category. Then as incoming video arrives, a two-part filtering system is used to identify which existing video will be overwritten. First, video in the lowest priority category is identified. Then the retention rules are applied to the identified video in the category to determine whether it can be overwritten. This two step filtering process is repeated for each category from lowest to highest until sufficient space is made available to receive the incoming video. The prioritization of the categories may be changed in real time by the user, according to the value or importance of any particular existing stored video in order to preserve it.

5

10

15

789636.utility application .4